

AG's Consumer Protection Unit Warns Delawareans About Scam Calls Regarding Social Security Numbers

The Consumer Protection Unit (CPU) of the Delaware Department of Justice's Fraud and Consumer Protection Division has learned of reports about people pretending to be from the Social Security Administration (SSA) making phone calls in an attempt to steal Social Security numbers.

In a typical scam, the caller pretends to work for the SSA, and tells the intended victim his or her Social Security number is blocked because it has been linked to a crime. The scammer often says the crime occurred in Texas and involves drugs or sending money out of the country illegally. The caller then asks for confirmation of the Social Security number, and may ask for money in order to reactivate it or replace it with a new number.

Other variations of the call include saying the intended victim's social security number was used to apply for a credit card or that a bank account may be seized to encourage the victim to withdraw money.

The CPU reminds you:

- The SSA will never call and ask for your Social Security number. It will not ask you to pay anything, and will not call to threaten your benefits.
- Your caller ID might show the SSA's real phone number (1-800-772-1213), but that's not the real SSA calling. Computers make it easy to show any number on caller ID.
- Never give your Social Security number to anyone who contacts you, including confirming the last 4 numbers.
- Do not give a bank account or credit card number – ever – to anybody who contacts you asking for it.
- Remember that anyone who tells you to wire money, pay with a gift card, or send cash is a scammer.

If you receive one of these calls, immediately hang up and call the SSA 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), and if you've spotted a scam, contact the FTC at [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint).